

REMARKS

Claims 7, and 9-14 are pending. Claim 8 is cancelled herein. Claims 13 and 14 are added herein.

I. The title has been amended to include the terms "laser scanning" microscope.

No new matter has been added. It is respectfully requested that the title amendment be entered.

II. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 8.

Claim 8 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

III. Independent claim 7 has been limited to laser scanning microscopes.

Claim 7 has also been amended to include the language below, supported by page 3, line 22 of the specification:

"and for in-coupling a scanning laser beam from the laser scanning microscope."

Claim 7 now claims:

7. (Once amended) [In an] An arrangement for coupling at least one beam of optical tweezers for trapping particles and/or a treatment beam into a microscope beam path [, preferably] in a laser scanning microscope, comprising:

means for changing the position of the beam focus of the optical tweezers and/or of the treatment beam in a freely adjustable manner [for purposes of changing the focal position of the microscope.]

wherein movable optics are provided for changing the position of the beam focus of the optical tweezers and of the treatment beam and for in-coupling a scanning laser beam from the laser scanning microscope.

The Faellman reference does not teach laser scanning microscopes as claimed claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that this reference cannot anticipate claim 7.

One of the inventors, Prof. Greulich states that the Schultze arrangement does not teach or function for a laser-scanning microscope. Therefore, the reference can not anticipate claim 7.

The remaining claims depend from claim 7, and therefore they should also be allowable.

IV. New independent claim 14 has been added and is supported by Fig. 2 and page 4, lines 26-
page 3 lines 5.

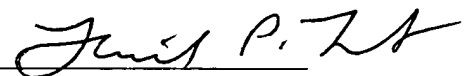
It is respectfully requested that claim 14 be considered. No new matter has been added. This claim is respectfully asserted to not be anticipated or made obvious by any of the cited references whether taken alone or in combination.

V. Conclusion.

In light of the *FESTO* case, no claim amendment or argument made herein was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No claim amendment or argument made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim unless Applicant has explicitly stated that the argument is "narrowing." Thus, the amendments herein were made for no more than a "tangential relation" for any equivalents unless explicitly stated that they were not "tangential relation" reason for amendment or argument. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of the claims be reconsidered and allowed.

Please call the undersigned for any reason to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP TITLE

Please delete the current paragraph and substitute the following title in its place:

-- SYSTEM FOR INTRODUCING OPTICAL TWEEZERS AND/OR A TREATMENT BEAM
INTO A LASER SCANNING MICROSCOPE--

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

All of the claims whether amended or not are provided for the convenience of the Examiner below. Claims 10-12 are not amended. New Claims 13-14 are added herein.

7. (Once amended) [In an] An arrangement for coupling at least one beam of optical tweezers for trapping particles and/or a treatment beam into a microscope beam path[, preferably] in a laser scanning microscope, comprising:

means for changing the position of the beam focus of the optical tweezers and/or of the treatment beam in a freely adjustable manner [for purposes of changing the focal position of the microscope.]

wherein movable optics are provided for changing the position of the beam focus of the optical tweezers and of the treatment beam and for in-coupling a scanning laser beam from the laser scanning microscope.

Please delete claim 8.

9. (Once amended) The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein [the] a beam outlet and/or illumination optics of the optical tweezers [and/or] and of the treatment beam are/is displaceable in the direction of the optical axis.

10. The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein the change is controllable and causes a movement of the optical tweezers and/or of the treatment beam in the direction opposite to the movement of the microscope objective.

11. The arrangement according to claim 7, with a defined control of the displacement by previously stored or calculated values depending on the focal position.

12. The arrangement according to claim 7, wherein there is provided a plurality of optical tweezers and/or treatment beams which are adjustable individually and/or

jointly with respect to their focal position.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS:

13. (New) The arrangement of claim 7 wherein at least one electromechanical variable optical element performs a z-direction compensation of a displacement of an object plane so that an object being observed is fixed in position.

14. (New) a laser scanning microscope and laser tweezer combination comprising:

a laser scanning module with a pinhole optics and a detector;

at least one laser tweezer module;

a z-direction displaceable objective for performing z-direction compensation and for focusing laser beams from the laser scanning module and for focusing the laser tweezer beams from the laser tweezer module.